completion of coastal protection works in their State due to paucity of funds.

(e) and (f) Primarily the planning, investigation and execution of schemes related to prevention of coastal erosion are the responsibility of State Governments. These are funded by the State Governments from their Plan annual funds provided to the States by the Planning Commission under flood control.

However, to tide over the fund constraint faced by the States in completing anti sea erosion works in their critical costal reaches, a CSS as mentioned in para (c) above has been formulated by this Ministry which has been cleared by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) but is awaiting the approval of Full Planning Commission.

Water harvesting by Group Housing Societies

298. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for promoting water harvesting by private bodies such as Group Housing Societies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to bring out the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) There is no scheme exclusively devoted for promoting water harvesting by private bodies such as Group Housing Societies. However, many rain water harvesting measures are being implemented by various Central and State Government agencies including Non-Government Organisations, to improve the water availability. The Central Ground Water Board is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water" at a cost of Rs.25.00 crore. With a view to promoting roof top rain water harvesting, the Ministry of Water Resources has proposed to the Ministry of Urban Development to consider

enactment of suitable legislation for provision of roof top rain water harvesting for buildings in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and other cities by the concerned organizations. Government provides funds to the States to supplement their efforts for providing drinking water under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programmes (ARWSP) and, upto 20 per cent of the ARWSP funds can be earmarked and utilised for sustainability of drinking water sources including water harvesting structures. As per guidelines under the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) for Rural Drinking Water, minimum 25% of total allocation for the component is to be utilised by the respective States/UT's on projects/schemes for water conservation, water harvesting, water recharge and sustainability of drinking water source in respect of Desert Development Programme/ Drought Prone Area Programme areas, over-exploited dark/grey blocks and other water stress/drought affected areas. Allocation of 25% of the total allocation for sustainability is not to be insisted upon in areas where the water table and rainfall is high and ground water development is low.

Ground water table

299. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over exploitation of ground water resources had lowered the water table by two meters during the last twenty years forcing farmers to drill deeper, increasing the cost of pumping and energy use, thus reducing the profitability and efficiency of agriculture;

(b) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has pointed out that the quality of deep ground water is saline resulting in degradation of soil; and

(c) if so, what action Government are taking on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The long-term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board